(b) if so, the details of the districts of Orissa included in this; and

(c) the fresh steps taken or the strategy formulated to implement the scheme in the backward districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme has been introduced in slums of 15 cities and in 32 districts. During the pilot phases (2000-04) only those districts that have demonstrated a good performance of the immunization programme as determined by a proportion of at least 80% infants being fully immunized, have been included. Sundergarh district from Orissa has been included in the Project. Steps have been initiated to improve performance of the routine immunization activities in backward districts.

Trials of Yoga and Herbal medicines at higher altitudes

1965. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yoga and Herbal medicines have been found to be helpful in staying fit at higher altitudes;

(b) whether defence authorities have conducted trials of these medicines; and

(c) if so, their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of studies conducted by scientific team of Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences have shown that Composite Indian Herbal Preparations (CIHPs) are beneficial in the extreme altitude, cold area or in low intensity conflict situations. In order to evaluate acceptability and subjective efficacy of CIHP-II in extreme altitudes *i.e.* beyond about 5000 m a large scale trial on troops operating at these heights is in progress.